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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF TENEBRIONID FROM THE ISLE OF DJERBA (GULF OF GABÈS, TUNISIA)

(COLEOPTERA, HETEROMERA)

***Stenohelops berettai* n. sp.**

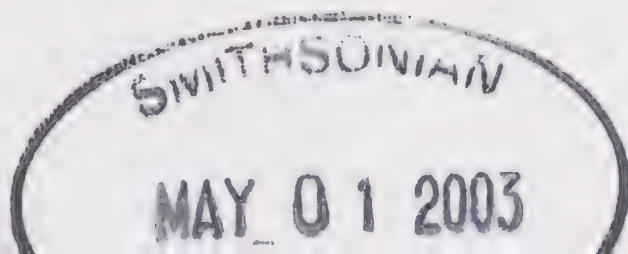
Reddish-brown, with exception for the last antennal articles (VII-XI) gradually wider and darker, up to dark brown; very shining, smooth, ovate, convex; elytrae with almost parallel sides.

Head transverse, clypeus well separated from forehead by an incision caudally followed by a deep, semicircular, very characteristic groove, prolonged at the sides up to the genae. These are raised, emergent; eyes large, well emergent, at the sides slightly acuminate. Dorsal surface of head smooth and shining. Antennae very long, from VII to XI article gradually dilated and darker, going from yellowish-red of first articles to dark brown of the last ones.

Pronotum convex, shining and smooth, furnished with an extremely minute and sparse punctuation, visible only at a particular incidence of light. Sides perfectly rounded, so that basis as wide as apex, with anterior angles rounded and hind angles obtuse, but not prominent. Margin extremely narrow and limited to the sides.

Elytrae convex, subcylindrical, with striae furnished with a minute punctuation continuous from base to apex. Interstriae shining, flat, smooth, making allowance for an extremely minute, irregular punctuation.

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Ventral surface: mentum small, with well visible mouth parts; gula densely punctured, shining. Prosternum smooth, here included the reflected part of pronotum (or propleurites). Intercoxal process smooth, shining, lanceolate, posteriorly brusquely declivous. Mesosternum punctured, somewhat excavated between the coxae; metasternum smooth, relatively short, punctured only towards the sides, prolonged in a triangular point situated between the mesocoxae, which are very near one to another. Urosterna punctured, the punctures tending to form longitudinal striolae. The point of I urosternum between the metacoxae similar to that of metasternum, situated between the mesocoxae. Ventral surface of legs smooth, furnished with a very minute and scarce punctuation.

Length: 7 mm.

Locus classicus: Isl. Gerba (or Djerba, or Jarbah), Midoun (Tunisia), 15/29.III.1992, L. Beretta leg., 1 male Holotypus, preserved at the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G. Doria" in Genoa.

Though following Reitter's Bestimmungstabellen (1922), the new species should be determined as a *Stenohelops*, and more precisely *Stenohelops* s. str., it is distinguished because of the smooth surface of propleurites (reflected part of the pronotum). Also because of its distribution, it can be inserted neither in I group (pleurites with a normal punctuation) nor in II (pleurites with striolae). The first is limited to Iberian Peninsula, the second to Spain and Sicily, although according to Español (1957, p. 27) the status of the species present in Sicily (*S. narcissus* REITTER) is still doubtful and deserves further study.

It could be perhaps a more ancient element of *Stenohelops* s. str., reaching North Africa (Djerba Island) near the coast of Tunisia. The subgenus *Gunarellus* should be still older, going from Eastern Europe to Iberian Peninsula and North Western Africa (Español 1957, fig. 3). *Stenohelops* and *Gunarus* should be two very old Mediterranean elements.

REFERENCES

- ESPAÑOL COLL. F., 1957 - Contribucion al estudio de los *Stenohelops* ibéricos (Col. Tenebrionidae) - *Eos*, Madrid, 33: 19-38.
- REITTER E., 1922 - Bestimmungstabelle der palaearktischen Helopinae (Col. Tenebrionidae), II Teil - *Wien. entom. Zeitung*, 39: 113-118.

ABSTRACT

Stenohelops berettai n. sp. is described on the basis of one single male collected in the Isle of Djerba, Tunisia.

RIASSUNTO

Descrizione di una nuova specie di Tenebrionide dell'Isola Djerba (Golfo di Gabès, Tunisia) (Coleoptera, Heteromera).

L'Autore descrive la nuova specie tunisina *Stenohelops berettai*, caratterizzata dalla superficie liscia dei propleuriti.
